



Council Process and Organization



Council Member Orientation
October 27, 2015
Silver Spring, MD



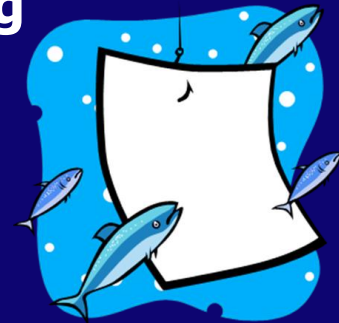
Overview

- **Describe the Council process relative to its responsibilities under MSA**
- **Describe the organization of the Councils**
- **Highlight some similarities and differences among Councils**

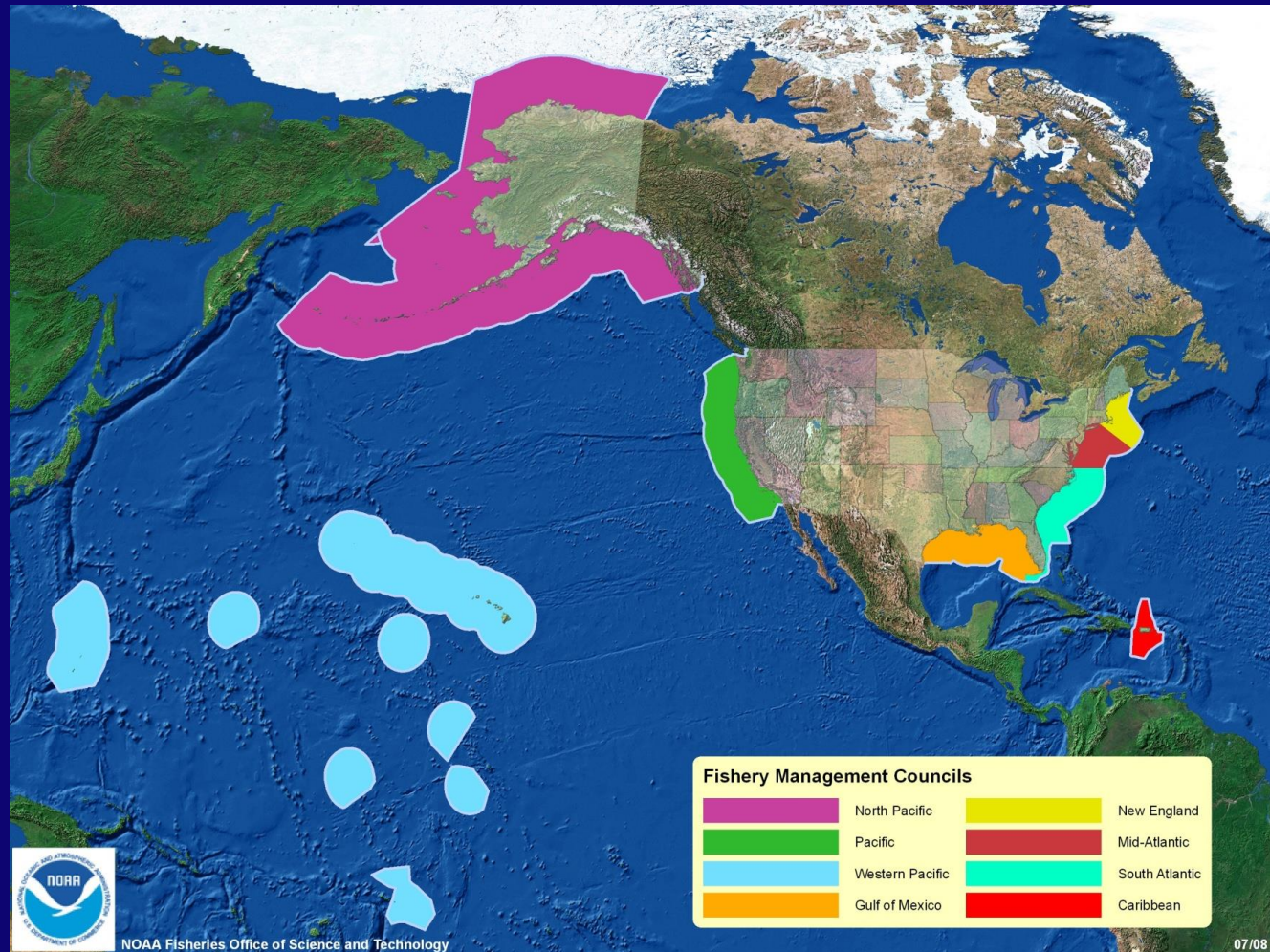
MSA

National Standards (in brief!)

- **Prevent overfishing while achieving optimum yield**
- **Use best scientific information available**
- **Manage individual stocks throughout their range**
- **Allocation of privileges to fish must be fair and equitable**
- **No such measure shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose**
- **Allow for variation among the contingencies in fisheries, fishery resources, and catches**
- **Minimize costs, avoid duplication, where practicable**
- **Account for importance of fishery resources to fishing communities**
- **Minimize bycatch or mortality from bycatch**
- **Promote safety of human life at sea**



Councils develop fishery management plans (FMPs) and amendments for the fisheries within their EEZ.



Spiny Lobster



Dolphin/Wahoo



**Coastal Migratory
Pelagics**



Golden Crab



Sargassum



Coral



Shrimp



Snapper/Grouper



Habitat



Ecosystem-Based



SAFMC Plans

US Fisheries Management

- **Department of the Interior**
 - **US Fish and Wildlife Service**
 - **Inland waters**
- **Fishery Commissions**
 - **State water management to 3 miles**
- **Department of Commerce**
 - **NOAA Fisheries**
 - **Marine Federal waters (>3mi)**



Other Council Responsibilities

- Prepare comments on applications for foreign fishing transmitted to it
- Conduct public hearings as appropriate
- Submit to Secretary requested reports or those deemed necessary by Council
- Revise specifications with respect to OY
- Develop research priorities w/ Council's SSC



Council Membership

- **Voting members**
 - **NMFS Regional Administrator**
 - **State marine fishery management official**
 - **Individuals appointed by Secretary of Commerce**
- **Non-voting members**
 - **USFWS Regional Director**
 - **USCG Regional Commander**
 - **Executive Director of Marine Fisheries Commissions**
 - **US Department of State representative**

Voting Members

- **NPFMC – 11 members**
 - 4 officials
 - 7 appointed
- **WPFMC – 13 members**
 - 5 officials
 - 8 appointed
- **PFMC – 14 members**
 - 5 officials
 - 9 appointed
- **GMFMC – 17 members**
 - 6 officials
 - 11 appointed
- **CFMC – 7 members**
 - 3 officials
 - 4 appointed
- **SAFMC – 13 members**
 - 5 officials
 - 8 appointed
- **MAFMC – 21 members**
 - 8 officials
 - 13 appointed
- **NEFMC – 18 members**
 - 6 officials
 - 12 appointed

Conduits for Public Input

- **Council Membership Composition**
 - **Fishing Community (fishermen, processors, group reps.)**
 - **State Fisheries Officials (represent stakeholder interests in states)**
 - **Others (scientists, ENGOs, public/seafood consumers)**



**Chaos was the law of nature; order was
the dream of man.**

- Henry Adams



Council Members

- **Statutory members serve as long as they hold their positions**
- **Appointed members serve 3-year terms**
 - **May serve for up to 3 consecutive terms**
 - **After served 3 terms, may be reappointed after 1 year off the Council**



Voting / Business

- Majority of voting members constitutes a “quorum” – no quorum, no business
- Decisions shall be based on those present and voting
- Any voting members may request a roll call vote
- Meetings operate under parliamentary procedures (Robert’s rules)

Voting/Business

- General counsel is usually parliamentarian
- Why do we need meeting rules?



Voting/Business

- 1 or more members may hold hearings
- “Hearing officers” hold with staff support



Council Structure



Council Members

- Chair/Vice-Chair
- Executive committee
- Committee Structure (Species, FMP, Topic, etc.)

Council Staff

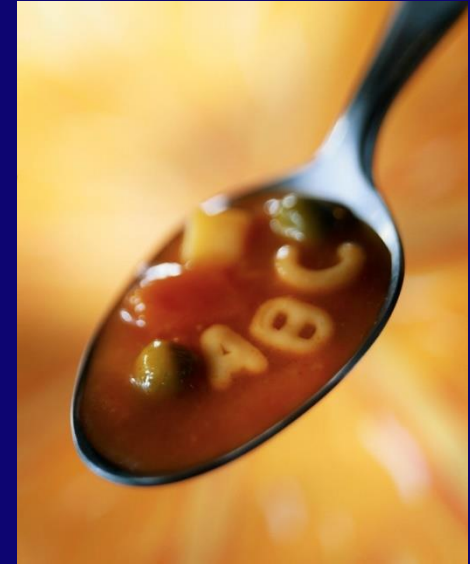
- Executive Director
- Technical staff
- Administrative staff
- Plan Development/Action/Monitoring Teams

Advisory Groups

- Advisory Panels
- Scientific and Statistical Committee
- Other groups?

Advisory Groups

- **Scientific and Statistical Committee's**
 - Ongoing scientific advice,
 - Acceptable biological catch (ABCs),
 - Preventing overfishing,
 - MSY,
 - Rebuilding, socioecon., etc.
- For stock assessments, regions have other peer review process:
 - SAW/SARC
 - SEDAR
 - STAR



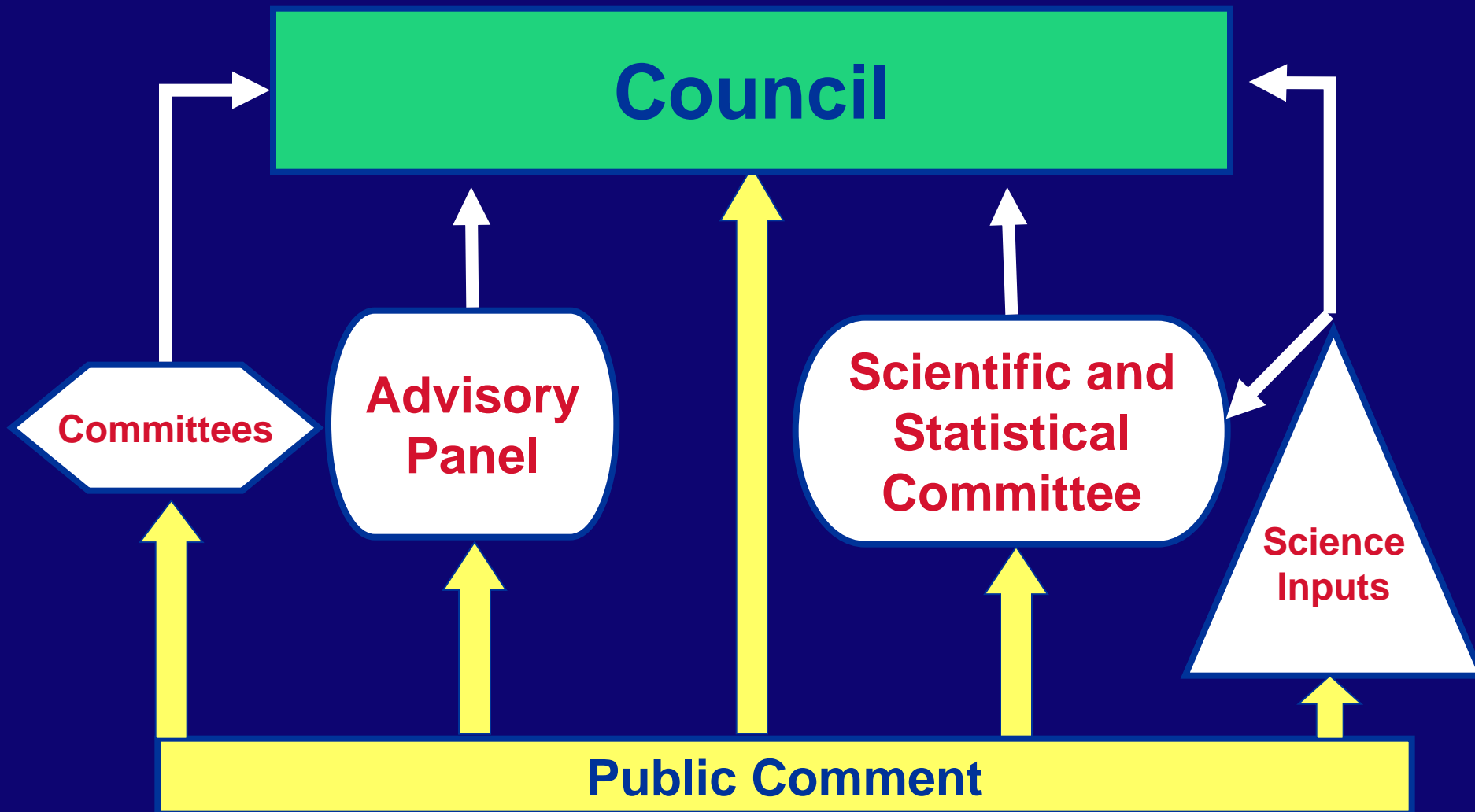
Advisory Panel



- **Industry advisory panel**
- **Organized very differently across Council's**
- **Means to facilitate stakeholder input into FMPs and other actions**



Council Structure



Council Structure

- See handouts on Council structures (Fisheries Forum credit)



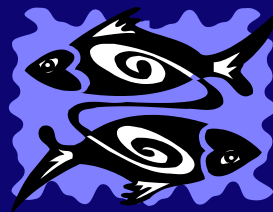
Public Meetings - Public Process



- Public Meetings
- Noticed in FR and on web
- Public Record - recorded and/or transcribed
- Accessible (online?)

Federal Advisory Committee ACT

- **Councils, their Committees and Advisors are exempt from FACA**
- **The FACA applies whenever an agency:**
 - **seeks consensus advice**
 - **from a group that includes at least one person who is not a regular Federal employee, and**
 - **obtains input for its own operations or activities.**



My Suggestions

- **Use your staffs as a resource**
- **Ask lots of questions**
- **Find a more seasoned Council member to sit with**

